

The

Call Letter

August, 2023
Volume 49 #8

2019 Trash Bash
(recycling event)



Trash Bash at the
August 12 meeting

NEXT MEETING

August 12 at the Abernethy Grange

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Contact a society officer to confirm the location of the next meeting. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009)

Vice President Franklin Ouchida

Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489)

Recording Secretary Scott Thomas

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Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

President’s Message

By Pat Kagi, President

August will be our annual Trash Bash where you can clean out your attic, basement, closets, garage, and storage units and bring in your electronic surplus for recycling.

To be sure, you may find some nice items or projects to take home as well since “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure”. There will be some items coming in from Galen Feight’s estate.

There will be a regular meeting inside the Grange Hall as well as the recycling event in the Parking lot. Remember the free table items in July? Well, there should be even more items. There will also be a pizza/salad party at this event so plan now to attend.

Special thanks to Roland Beebe, Dan Howard, Esteban Mendoza, Mike Moran, Bill Neeland, Lee Stanford, Brian and Kathleen Toon, and Christian Winfield for helping out and picking up the items from the estate.

Also, thanks to all who helped out and made the Chehalis Swap Meet a success. It has become quite a combined get-together. It is only possible when people pitch in.

Meeting Minutes

By Scott Thomas, Secretary

The July 8, 2023 meeting of the NW Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Pat Kagi at 9:30 am. There were approximately 44 in attendance.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited

New Member: Bob Corley

Health & Welfare: No new items brought up. Rides to the meeting included Ed bringing Ray Holland and Mike McCrow brought Damon and George.

Treasurer Report: Ed reports no change to the Jim Mason Fund, and the club Cash on Hand \$13,500+

Secretary Minutes: accepted as published.

Leads and Needs: Damon has cabinet markers for sale for \$5.00. Damon needs a 12AX7 tube for Ham Equipment, off brands are acceptable. Tony Ranft has 200+ tubes for sale in large lots. George Kirkwood has TV's and CRT tubes for the asking.

Old Business:

Oregon Science Festival 9/16 & 9/17, Looking for volunteers, the goal is to introduce people to radio technology. The event is held at OMSI

Annual Chehalis Picnic 7/29 Potluck, please bring salads and other sides. Beverages, burgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments provided by the club.

Memorial Bench: Remains on hold while the planned building reinforcement has not yet begun.

Trash Bash: Next month bring your unwanted electronic equipment to swap or recycle. Pizza Party/Salad afterward and there will be a Tech Talk as well as a regular meeting. Members can sell via tailgate prior to the meeting.

Monthly Feature: George Kirkwood brought a Norco #66, that he found years ago in a farmer's chicken coop. The lid was beyond repair, so he made a new one. Everything else he cleaned and this radio went on to be used often in his home. George just wanted us all to know you never know what you'll find out in a chicken coop.

Tube of the Month: Mike McCrow spoke about the 6L6 tube. Article on the tube was in the July Call Letter.

Tech Talk: Blake, and Mike McCrow presented a talk on the All American 5 radio, Second or Power Amplifier Stage, Marcus & Levy Chapter 10. (Due to equipment malfunction this talk will be continued next month.) There will be hands on opportunities to measure voltage.

Future Events: Chehalis Swap Meet with PSARA 7/29/23, and Trash Bash 8/12/23 with Pizza and Salad

Meeting was Adjourned

Swap Shop

Wanted: I need two vintage radio wooden cabinets to house two battery sets. They both need to fit a front panel that is 7" high and 24" wide. - Dick Howard Howard27@Comcast.net

For Sale: I've got hundreds of radio tubes for sale. I like to sell large lots.-- Contact Tony Ranft at 360-944-8489

SWAP SHOP:

If you have a particular set, or dial, or piece that you are looking for, include a photo of a similar part so we can help you find it.

If you have a radio (one at a time) that you are wishing to sell, send a photo and a short description to the editor.

July Meeting Photo Memories



The Free Table is crowded every meeting.



An auction of donated materials for the “good of the order.”



Blake and Mike continue their technical repair series on the All American 5 radio



George

Kirkwood's 6 tube feature: A Portland-made Norco 66

Birthday Greetings for August



*John Bucsek
Henry Geissel
Regina Liszanckie
Michael Nastari
Jim Nichols
Robert Norton
Jim Trunzo
Rick Walton*

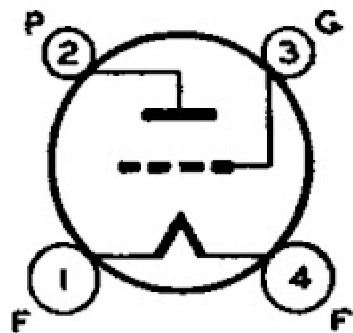
If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board members know at patkagi@yahoo.com

Tube of the Month - 71A

by Mike McCrow

The UX171 tube was designed in 1925 by RCA. The original design used a thoriated tungsten filament and operated at 5 volts, and .5 amps. The release date was June of 1926. Five months later in November it was replaced with the UX171A. The New version had an oxide-coated filament and operated at .25 amps.

The UX171A or 71A as it is known is a four pin triode amplifier used in battery sets and early AC radios of the 1920's and early 1930's. The data sheets show that the tube has a maximum output power of 790mw, but it is closer to 500mw in actual operating conditions. Plate load resistance is 1750 ohms so caution should be taken to choose an output transformer primary of 6k to 7k or higher impedance. The amplification factor is 3, so it is not the hottest tube out there by today's standards. It was an improvement over the 201A in battery sets and delivered good audio output power. To reach maximum output power it requires a fairly large voltage swing, in the range of 80 volts peak to peak on the grid. Later tubes such as the 42, 6V6, 6F6 pentodes, and triodes like the 45 and 2A3 replaced the 71A. The 71A served a purpose for its time as a suitable output tube in early radio applications.



The NW Vintage Radio Society celebrates our first 50 years

1974-2024

Plan now to be a part of it !

Do You Remember Your First Time?

By Editor Dick Karman

As Call Letter Editor and long-time member I have heard the stories from members far and wide about the “hunting” trips they have been on, looking for vintage radios. Some of these story date back 40 or more years; some are in the last decade.

Do you remember your “first find” or the little junk shop that isn’t there anymore? I read through some of these and think of the old days when just finding a battery set with all of its tubes was an occasion to be celebrated.

Some of those stories included a trip to the local landfill. Or as one of our reoccurring pieces of art work would indicate—following a garbage truck to see what they find left at the curb.

Please contribute a story, so that others can enjoy your “*first time?*” If we are honest, quite a few of those stories would mention Bob Lee’s shop “R5 – D3;” maybe even Wacky Willies. Dozens of us “cut our teeth” on a store called “Cal’s Books and Wares” in Downtown Portland, while others lingered longer in “junk row” of the Sellwood or the Multnomah Districts.

I know I can count on “first trip” stories of Springer's Flea Market in Pleasant Valley, or Banner Flea Market in the Hillsboro area, or Sandy Barr's Flea Market on North Chautauqua. Send me a paragraph about the memories.

I’ve got a few stories on the shelf from our members who left their legacy by writing in the Call Letter. Write a story for all to enjoy.

Tell us about your “*first time!*”

Remembering Don Iverson

Compiled by Dick Karman

From the Oregonian:

Donald W. Iverson

(09/15/1927 to 05/02/2009)

Donald Wayne Iverson Sr. was born in Redfield, S.D., and moved to Portland in 1949, where he met and married Florence Huff. He is survived by Florence, his wife of nearly 60 years; their four children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren [as of 2009].



Early in his life he worked on McNary Dam [Dam under construction from 1947 to 1954] and then worked for Union Carbide for over 30 years as a [plant] maintenance electrician. Don enjoyed his 30 years of retirement, collecting and fixing vintage radios and motorcycles. He loved his trips to Reno, Nev., and the coast. He lived his life to the fullest and always had fun. [He lost the battle with cancer and passed away May 2, 2009] *“You will be greatly missed and we all love you.”*

Many of us didn’t know Don before he became part of the NW Vintage Radio Society in 1974. At that time he was still a working electrician, but had a side business that he simply titled: “Wireless Antiques.”

In 1997 a fellow brass pounder and key collector Lynn Burlingame wrote a tribute to Don and posted it on his web site <http://www.n7cfo.com>:

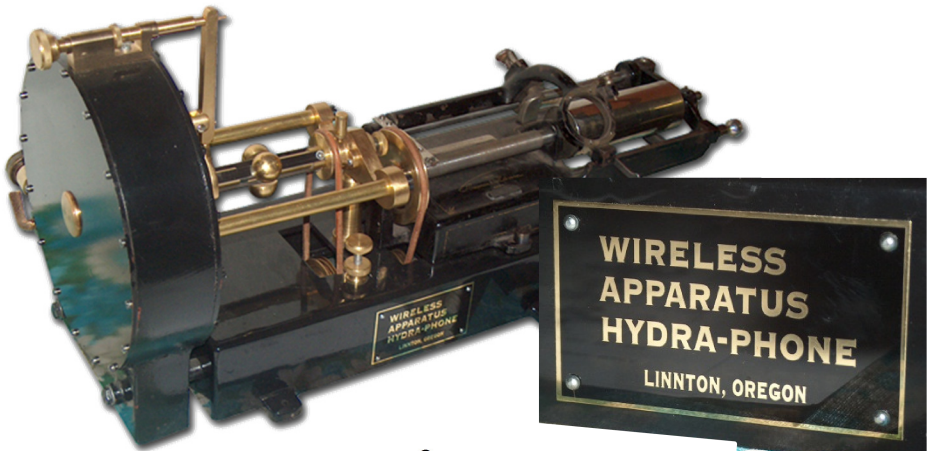
“Don is guy that spent most of his life working with his hands. He doodles in metal like other people doodle with a

pen and ink. This doodling has lead him into some interesting areas. Don has (at one time or another) been into antique [Indian] motorcycles, metal toys, kewpie dolls, radio gear, telegraph keys and probably quite a number of other things. He just plain likes to build stuff and repair and restore things. It is a small step from building replacement parts to building actual items. Don, however, does not build replicas. He builds original items that have every appearance of being very old. The quality of his work is very good, and he takes a lot of pleasure in fooling so called "experts".

“To that end, he created the "Wireless Apparatus Company". As you read this you are probably thinking that you have heard of them. I have checked my files and consulted with several collectors, and we have yet to find a trace of it, other than in Don's fertile imagination. The Wireless Apparatus Company sounds like it must have existed, doesn't it?

“If you ever happen onto a Wireless Apparatus product there is one sure-fire way to identify it - the patent date is always April 1 of the appropriate year!”

An example of an original Iverson apparatus was the Hydra Phone. It took an Edison cylinder player and built the mechanism which turned the cylinder using water pressure. The Edison portion was credited but the rest of the assembly was a genuine Wireless Apparatus Hydra Phone.



Don's contributions to the NW vintage Radio Society are countless. He took the job of President for the year 1981. He always had interesting items to display in the early days when it was called "Show & Tell." His craftsmanship was so legendary that a Craftsmanship award was created and awarded to members for several years. The Trophy in memory of Don Iverson (below) was stolen in a burglary at the Grange Hall in November 2012. Although some other gear was recovered the trophy never was.

When folks teamed up with Tom James and built the "Hunkerdyne" mascot radio, Don was bothered that no one had a horn speaker to match the drawing that Don Hunker had originally laid out as part of the logo. Don Iverson took the measurements (and his metal lathe) and turned the speaker base to match the logo and then placed a driver in it. Using an already available horn, the logo radio and speaker have lived on.



Like so many of our members, Don had some pretty specific opinions about what "restoration" means and how it should be used. He would create a new "old apparatus" before he would 'cobble' something together. This point of view was made in a letter he wrote to the Call Letter editor back in January 1980.

(Don's op-ed follows.)

Letter to the Editor

An unsolicited guest editorial from January 1980

By Don Iverson

[This concerns] the question about what to do with an old radio which was in less than mint condition. There was mention of problems antique car buffs face which we radio collectors also face. I would like to add that collectors of every imaginable item face the same question, how do I restore the item of my interest? This raises another question: how pure and true am I as a collector?

I know car buffs who would replace say a fender with one made of fiberglass or use a part from a 1930 model in a 1925 just because it would work. Toy collectors will use a wheel from one toy to replace one in a more desirable toy. Furniture gatherers (how can you collect furniture?) swap parts around like they were putting together a tinker toy set. We have people in our own hobby who replace bad audio transformers with resistors, condensers and who knows what else, put on the wrong type of knobs, sand off a scratched finish and use any number of concoctions to replace it.

How can any of these various items be said to be in the restored state? This brings us to what should have been clarified in the beginning what does it mean to restore an item? To restore means to bring back to the original condition- *period*.

How can the car with fiberglass fenders or 1930 parts in a 1925; cast toys with wheels from a different toy; furniture with mismatched parts; the radio with a bunch of resistors and condensers replacing the audio transformers be said to be in the restored state? These items were not that way originally. They only resemble their former selves.

I believe there should be three categories to identify the state of various items.

#1 Restored.

#2 Semi-restored

#3 Repaired

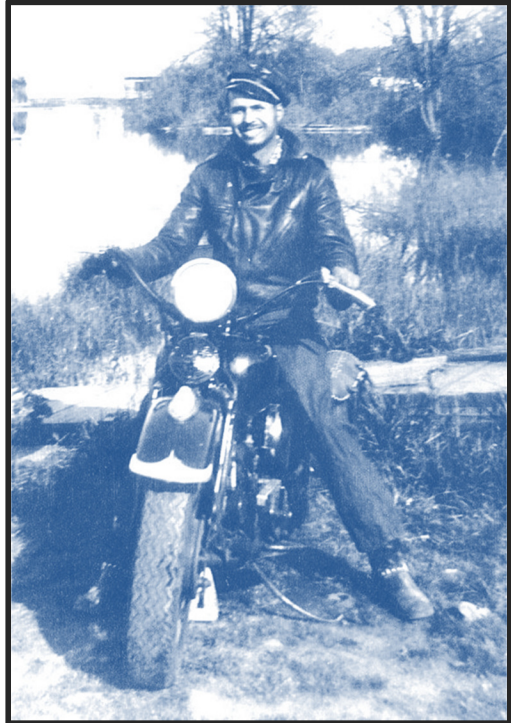
#1 should be self-explanatory - It should be [exactly] like new.

- #2 would require that all parts be of the type for that particular model. The parts would not have to be perfect. A part a little chipped or cracked does not take second place to at wrong one even in new condition. The cabinet would have at least a trace of original finish and not covered with any clear plastic junk either.
- #3 to repair means to make it function again. There's no unwritten law that the parts replaced have to be of the same type as the original. The fact is that some radios can be made to work better with parts other than original ones. You can use those resistors and condensers in the audio stages. You can scrape off that scratched finish and put on that slickity Varathane; in general you can do most anything that gives you self-satisfaction.

However if you follow the 3 category [above] PLEASE don't say you restored a radio [but] rather that you repaired it.

"Cuz that's what you went and done."

Don Iverson,
Charter member.
(silent key, 2009)



Atmospherics by Tom James

ANOTHER WHITE ELEPHANT



History: Fifty years ago everyone remembered the scratchy reception of the 30's and 40's. It was blamed on atmospheric conditions, defined as the cause of breaks in serious reception. Atmospheric conditions soon were referred to as "atmospherics." Charter member Tom James thought that our newsletter should have some breaks in serious reception and started to write poetry, titled first *Atmospherics*, and later as *Atmospherica*. Tom and his wife, Dorothy, are gone now, but the Call Letter continues to publish Tom's works as a break in serious reception.

'Twas a twenty tube behemoth
Built by Cooper, Lane and Stokes.
The model was the "Taj Mahal",
(to excite the wealthy folks).

It sported all the latest stuff
In the circuits up to date—
Had six speakers, enough to drown
The sound of the S. P. freight!

Solid walnut was the cabinet,
With the grain all matched and such.
The perfect radio to show--
The ultimate classic touch!

Now Reginald de Smythe, the third
Installed one of these on trial,
He then sat down to search the band;
Hunting D. X. was in style.

The foreign stations were not there,
Nor many outside the state,
But the "Locals" came a-booming in
On this music box ornate!

He quickly dumped this work of art;
Called it a prestigious fake,
Since neighbor Jones could out "pull" it
With his four tube Browning-Drake!



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